

A NEW SPECIES OF *SALSOLA*

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ABSTRACT

A new species, *Salsola verdoorniae* from the south-eastern Little Karoo, is described here.

UITTREKSEL

'n NUWE *SALSOLA* SOORT

Salsola verdoorniae, 'n nuwe spesies van die suid-oostelike dele van die Kleinkaroo, word hier beskryf.

Salsola verdoorniae Toelken sp. nov. ab speciebus austro-africanorum foliis caulum lateralium distichis differt.

Fruticuli caulibus prostratis tortuosis lignosis usque ad 25 cm longis et 0,5-1 cm diametro ad basim, ramossissimi, pulvinos irregulares formantes, internodiis 0,3-0,6 cm longis et tomentosis in caulibus principalibus et foliis spiraliter dispositis, foliis caulum brevium lateralium distichis. *Folia* alterna, 2-3,5 mm longa, 1-2 mm lata, acuta, amplexicaulia, dorsale carinata praecipue in caulibus lateralibus, tenacia et leviter succulenta ad basim, dense tecta pilis adpressis, cano-viridia. *Flores* axillares et bracteis duobus ovatis carinatis 2-2,5 mm longis et dense tectis pilis adpressis. *Tepala* triangularia vel lanceolata, 2,5-3,5 mm longa, dense tecta pilis adpressis. *Stamina* 2 mm longa, antheris anguste lanceolatis 1,2-1,5 mm longis et connectivis apices obtuses formantibus, lobis oblongis succulentis inter stamina. *Gynoeceum* stylo c. 1 mm longo et stigmatibus bifido 0,5-0,8 mm longo.

Type: CAPE: 3321 (Ladismith): Springfontein (-CC), *Tölken 1656* (BOL, holo!).

Shrublet with prostrate, tortuous woody branches up to 25 cm long and 0,5-1 cm in diameter towards the base, much branched forming a dense mat between the gravel, with internodes 0,3-0,6 cm long and tomentose on the main branches and with leaves spirally arranged, producing short axillary branches with no internodes visible between the leaves which are arranged strictly in two ranks. *Leaves* alternate, 2-3,5 mm long, 1-2 mm broad, sharply acute, dorsally keeled especially on the short axillary branches, amplexicaule, tough and slightly fleshy towards the base, densely covered with adpressed hairs, grey-green. *Flowers* axillary with two ovate keeled bracts 2-2,5 mm long and densely covered with adpressed hairs. *Stamens* 2 mm long, with narrowly lanceolate anthers

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1,2–1,5 mm long, with the connective forming an obtuse apex and with oblong fleshy lobes between the stamens. *Gynoecium* with style c. 1 mm long and with bifid stigma, 0,5–0,8 mm long.

S. verdoorniae grows on, or in association with, areas covered with quartzite gravel, but it occurs only in a few such localities just north of the Langeberg mainly between Barrydale and Muiskraal.

Two localities, i.e. on the farms Springfontein and Brandrivier have been revisited repeatedly during the past five years, but flowers were found only once after a good rain in 1968. This might account for the few times that the plant has been collected and no flowers have been seen previously.

C. A. Smith gave this species the manuscript name of *S. eragrostoides* referring to the similarity of the axillary branches to the ears found in the genus *Eragrostis*. It must, however, be pointed out that leaves are only two ranked on the axillary branches, while they are spirally arranged on the main branches and, therefore, this name could be misleading. However, it would be appropriate to name this distinct species in honour of Dr. I. C. Verdoorn, who has done so much towards the understanding of the taxonomy of this intricate genus in Southern Africa.



FIG. 1.

S. verdoorniae in its habitat (coin 1,5 cm in diameter)